STILL SERVING AMERICA

THE AMERICAN LEGION ONLINE UPDATE

7 AUGUST 2008 • ISSUE 25

O'Connor donates $10,000 to GPS receiver program

GPS for Troops in Minnesota is getting a big boost from Debbie O'Connor of Elk River, who is donating $10,000 to the program.
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Operation Wounded Warrior gets a "thank you"

The American Legion Riders in the southwest are doing a great job with Operation Wounded Warrior (OWW), which "has made life a little better for the troops and their families who have given so much for our country," says Aaron Dean, state president for the Legion Riders' New Mexico chapter.
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House passes VA funding bill

The House of Representatives passed its fiscal year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill on Aug. 1 in a strong bipartisan vote of 409 to 4.
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Wheelchair Games boost spirits and recovery of disabled veterans

As the crowd gathered inside the spacious ballroom of the Qwest Center Omaha, the excitement of the weightlifting competition was building even before the event began. Around the stacks of cast-iron plates, athletes couldn't help but boast about the weight they'd be lifting at the 28th National Veterans Wheelchair Games from July 25 to 29.
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"Although my work is traditional, it is a tradition of my own."
Donald Harcourt De Lue, American sculptor (1897-1988)

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"Communities Serving Veterans" needs your vote

Communities Serving Veterans is a project to help veterans re-enter civilian life through training, and to reduce the staggering number of homeless veterans in the United States. You can support the program by voting for its nomination in the American Express Members Project, which provides funding for community-outreach operations.
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Legacy Run to honor military

Hundreds of motorcyclists will take the concept of "veterans helping veterans" to a new level next week when The American Legion Riders kick off their third annual Legacy Run to raise $350,000 for the Legion's Legacy Scholarship program.
READ MORE

Green Berets plan Sept. reunion

The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) will hold a reunion Sept. 17-19 at Fort Campbell, Ky. Popularly known as the "Green Berets," members of the much-decorated Army unit will gather for three days of events...
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USAA expands membership eligibility

Citing steady growth in financial strength and operational capacity, United Services Automobile Association (USAA) announced that, effective immediately, membership is now expanded...
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Teen sharpshooters excel in national air-rifle championships

Xentri Garza, a 17-year-old from Fort Worth, Texas, capped off a championship year with her capture of the Sporter crown at the 18th American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 7-9.
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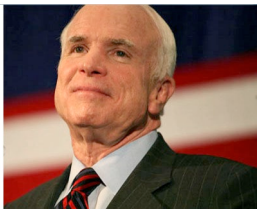
Legion, Military.com sponsor historic online presidential "Debate 2008"

"I recognize how important this is to American Legion members, and anybody who has fought on behalf of this country under that flag."
Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill, presidential candidate



"I have seen Americans literally shed their blood for this flag. I don't think it should be desecrated."
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., presidential candidate

READ MORE FROM BOTH CANDIDATES

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American Legion prepares for 90th National Convention

Thousands of Legionnaires will gather in Phoenix this weekend for the start of the 90th American Legion National Convention.

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"There's no such thing as a bad day to ride, especially when we are riding to raise money to ensure a college education for children who have lost a mom or dad. Rain is just liquid sunshine."

Phil Whitt, Birmingham Post 151

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Job fair, small business expo scheduled for Convention

The American Legion will sponsor a veterans job fair during the 90th National Convention, in the Phoenix Convention Center.

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Russo-Georgian War and the Balance of Power

The Russian invasion of Georgia has not changed the balance of power in Eurasia. It simply announced that the balance of power had already shifted.

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'Debate 2008' interviews online now

Presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., gave historic interviews to *The American Legion Magazine* on Aug. 2 and Aug. 9. The candidates responded directly to questions uploaded as videos from veterans and off-duty service personnel on Military.com, the largest military destination on the Web. The candidates spoke on national security, the war, deployment lengths, border control, VA health care and other subjects. Military.com, which has had a working relationship with The American Legion for more than three years, posted the video interviews - billed as "Debate 2008" - on Aug. 19.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Legion World Series gets under way Friday

Since 1926, young baseball players from around the country have annually converged on a host site for The American Legion Baseball World Series. This year, Shelby, N.C., is where Legion Baseball's championship team will be crowned.

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American Legion to VA: Don't outsource GI Bill

Any plans VA has for hiring independent contractors to launch new GI Bill benefits, or take on job of inspecting state veterans homes, will face fierce objection from the world's largest veterans organization.
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Legacy Run wraps up in Phoenix

Ride Captain Dick Woods, right, led more than 250 American Legion Riders on an 1,800-mile journey to Phoenix last week - a fundraising effort that netted more than a half-million dollars for the Legion's Legacy Scholarship program.
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More than 600 enlist, re-enlist at National Convention

More than 600 current or soon-to-be soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stood before an assembly of Legionnaires on Aug. 24, raised their right hands, and swore to defend their nation.
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" ... if people think this is too generous, have them put a pack on and go out and earn the benefit."
Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., author of the Post-9/11 GI Bill
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Rehbein new national commander, Spanogle and others honored

A research metallurgist and Vietnam War Army veteran has been elected American Legion national commander. On Thursday, delegates to the 90th American Legion National Convention in Phoenix unanimously elected David K. Rehbein of Ames, Iowa, to lead the organization for the 2008-2009 year.

"You have given me a great honor by electing me national commander," Rehbein told the delegates. "I think there's only one way I can express my feelings that go with this. One word: wow. I think we can make The American Legion a stronger organization next year."
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Las Vegas Post 76 wins World Series

Las Vegas Post 76 (Bishop Gorman High School) captured the 2008 American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, N.C., on Aug. 27, defeating Pasco, Wash., Post 34 in the championship game by a 5-1 score. About the only thing stopping the Post 76 team was a record 7 to 10 inches of rainfall, along with tornado watch activity, that moved through Shelby on Aug. 26.
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